

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 JUSE-00

RSR-01 /128 W

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O P 271852Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2168

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

CINCPAC

COMDT COAST GUARD

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR

SUBJECT: FRI

REF: A) STATE 147611; B) PARIS 20515

1. AS FORECAST REF B), DCM CALLED ON ARMED FORCES MINISTRY DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, SELLIERE LATE AFTERNOON JULY 27 AND CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL A), EMPHASIZING WASHINGTON REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL DETAILS OF MANNER AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING FRENCH INTERDICTION OF FRI.

2. SELLIERE SAID PLANE DUE TO ARRIVE PARIS AFTERNOON
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JULY 28 FROM PAPEETE WOULD CONTAIN REPORT OF ADMIRAL

CLAVIERIE SURROUNDING INTERDICTION OF FRI. HE, SELIERE, HAD SCHEDULED INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING FOR MORNING JULY 31 TO CONSIDER THE ADMIRAL'S REPORT AND FACTS CONTAINED THEREIN. HE EXPECTED THAT THE QUAI D'ORSAY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INFORM US AUGUST 1 OR 2 OF THE DETAILS THAT WE REQUESTED.

3. SELIERE SAID THAT ON SUNDAY, JULY 22, SECY OF STATE TO THE MINISTER OF ARMIES, ACHILLE-FOULD, HAD PERSONALLY MADE FOLLOWING OFFER TO DAVID MOODIE: (A) THAT HE AND HIS COMPANION WOULD BE TAKEN TO MURUROA TO SURVEY THE CODITION OF HIS KETCH; (B) THE KETCH WOULD THEN BE PUT IN EXCELLENT CONDITION BY THE FRENCH NAVY UNDER HIS SURVEILLANCE; AND (C) CONVOYED TO THE ISLAND OF HAO. VESSEL WOULD BE PLACED AT HIS DISPOSAL IN HAO ON THE ONE CONDITION THAT HE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO LEAVE DANGER AREA AND NOT RETURN. SELIERE REPORTED THAT, AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION OF THIS OFFER, DAVID MOODIE HAD REJECTED IT AND THAT HE WAS CONTINUING HIS HUNGER STRIKE. SELIERE ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHAT MORE COULD WE DO?" HE SAID THEY HAD MADE THE MOST ACCOMMODATING OFFER POSSIBLE BUT IT HAD BEEN REFUSED.

4. DCM INDICATED WASHINGTON WAS CONCERNED OVER REPORT THAT OFFICIALS IN TAHITI MAY BE PLANNING TO DEPORT MOODIE AND HIS COMPANION FROM POLYNESIA. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT MOODIE'S FATHER, GORDON MOODIE, WAS NOW PLANNING TO DEPART WASHINGTON IN ABOUT FOUR HOURS' TIME TO FLY TO PAPEETE TO SEE HIS SON. SITUATION WOULD BE FURTHER COMPLICATED IF GORDON MOODIE WERE TO ARRIVE AND FIND THAT HIS SON HAD ALEADY BEEN DEPORTED FROM TAHITI. SELIERE EXPLAINED THAT MINISTRY OF THE ARMIE WAS NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGNERS IN THE TEST AREA. SUCH RESPONSIBILITY FALLING ON BERNARD STASI, MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ANDDEPARTMENTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, THERE WERE NO PRESENT PLANS TO DEPORT MOODIE AND HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT IF GORDON MOODIE HOLDS TO HIS PLANS, HE WOULD INDEED BE ABLE TO MEET HIS SON IN PAPEETE. SELIERE WAS FRTHIER ADVISED THAT DEPT WAS CONSIDERING REQUEST OF GORDON MOODIE THAT HE BE ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT WE MIGHT INSTRUCT CONSULAR OFFICER FROM POST IN AREA TO GO TO PAPEETE.

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5. AMB RAISED SUBJECT AT LUNCHEON WITH SECY GEN OF ELYSEE BALLADUR, EXPLAINING OUR DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PRECISE INFORMATION AND FACT THAT EFFORTS BY GORDON MOODIE TO TALK TO HIS SON HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNAVAILING. HE SAID THAT QUAI HAD REPORTEDLY TOLD US ALL THEY KNEW BUT DID NOT, THEMSELVES, SEEM TO HAVE THE FACTS. HE EMPHASIZED TWO PROBLEMS, FIRST, THE LEGAL ARGUMENT AS TO WHETHER A COUNTRY HAD THE RIGHT TO

INTERFERE WITH THE VESSELS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY ON THE HIGH SEAS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WAS BASICALLY AN ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE SECOND PROBLEM RELATED TO THE TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND TO THE EXTENT OF FRENCH COOPERATION IN KEEPING US INFORMED AND ASSISTING IN POSSIBLE CONTACT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON. AMB STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH SECOND ASPECT SO THAT IT DID NOT COMPLICATE THE FIRST ONE.

6. BALLADUR SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO FIND OUT THE FACTS AND LET US KNOW. SUBSEQUENTLY, JEAN-LOUIS LUCET, CHARGE DE MISSION AT THE ELYSEE, CALLED AND GAVE SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THAT CONVEYED BY SELLIERE.
IRWIN

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